More pregnantly than words. Yet you do well, To show lord Timon, that mean eyes [6] have seen The foot above the head.

Trumpets sound. Enter TIMON, *attended; the Ser* vant of* FENTIDIUS *talking with him.*

TIM. Imprison'd Is he, say you [7] ?

FJSN. SERF. Ay, my good lord : five talents is his debt;
His means most short, his creditors most strait: Your honourable letter he desires To those have shut him up ; which failing[8], Periods his comfort[9].

TIM. NobleVentidius! Well; I am not of that feather, to shake off My friend when he must need me *. I do know him A gentleman, that well deserves a help.

of this mode of speech (which is not the case) the propriety of Mr. Malone's remark would have been readily admitted.
STEEVENS.

6 —mean eyes—] i. e. inferior spectators. So, in Wotton's Letter to Bacon, dated March the last, 1613 : "Before their majesties, and almost as many other *meaner eyes*" &c. TOLLET.

7 Imprison'd is HE, say you?] Here we have another interpolation destructive to the metre. Omitting—is he, we ought to read:
"Imprison'd, say you." STEEVENS.

[a] —which failing TO HIM,] Thus the second folio. The first omits—to him, and consequently mutilates the verse.
STEEVENS.

9 PERIODS his comfort.] *To period* is, perhaps, a verb of Shak-speare's introduction into the English language. I find it, however, used by Heywood, after him, in A Maidenhead Well Lost, 1634.:
[tf] How easy could I *period* all my care.'* Again, in The Country Girl, by T, B. 1647 :
*[e] To *period* our vain-grievings." STEEVENS.

[1] — MUST need me.] i. e. when he is compelled to have need of my assistance; or, as Mr. Malone has more happily explained the phrase,—" cannot but want my assistance." STEEVENS,